

Message Text

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71-62

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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TAGS: EGEN, UNGA

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA-AGENDA ITEM 65: REVIEW AND APPRAISAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

REF: A) USUN 6799; B) USUN 6823; C) USUN 6832

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1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SENIOR

G-77 SPOKESMAN REGARDING THE G-77 STATEMENT ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN THE UNGA PLENARY SESSION OF DECEMBER 15. THE SPOKESMAN IN EFFECT DISOWNED THE PLENARY STATEMENT MADE BY HIS SUBORDINATE AND SAID WE SHOULD TAKE THE STATEMENT HE, HIMSELF, HAD DELIVERED IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE AS THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE G-77. HE ASKED THAT WE REPORT TO WASHINGTON THAT HIS SUBORDINATE HAD "GONE TOO FAR" UNDER PRESSURE FROM SOME OF THE EXTREMISTS IN OTHER DELEGATIONS. HE REGRETTED THE MISUNDERSTANDING. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 15 THE UNGA PLENARY ROUTINELY TOOK UP THE RESOLUTION ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL C, THE G77 SPOKESMAN, RAJANOARIVELO OF MADAGASCAR, UNEXPECTEDLY MADE A SHARP STATEMENT IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE CRITICIZING THE "LAST-MINUTE CHANGE OF ATTITUDE OF A SUPER-POWER, WHICH EFFECTIVELY UPSET OUR HOPES AND CAUSED A VOTE TO BE TAKEN IN THE ASSEMBLY.". RAJONARIVELO WENT ON TO IMPLY THAT US HAD ACTED IMPROPERLY BY PARTICIPATING FULLY IN THE NEGOTIATION OF THE RESOLUTION AND THEN ABSTAINING RATHER THAN SUPPORTING IT. HE ALSO MADE MENACING NOISES ABOUT THE FUTURE ATTITUDE OF THE G-77.

3. ON DECEMBER 17, MYERSON APPROACHED MADAGASCAR PERM REP RABETAFIKA ON THIS MATTER. RABETAFIKA IS THE SENIOR G-77 SPOKESMAN IN NEW YORK AND HAD PERSONALLY HANDLED THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL ITEM WHEN THE SECOND COMMITTEE ACTED ON ITS (REFTELS A AND B). MYERSON SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THAT ANYONE COULD BE SURPRISED BY THE US UNWILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION WHICH IT CONSIDERED UNBALANCED; WHICH CONTAINED SEVERAL PEJORATIVE PHRASES; AND WHICH WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY PREJUDICED LONG-STANDING US POSITIONS ON SUCH IMPORTANT ISSUES AS PRODUCER-CONSUMER RELATIONS AND PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES. TO HAVE EXPECTED MAJOR SHIFTS ON THE EVE OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE SEEMED NAIVE.

4. MYERSON SAID THAT USUN HAD CONSIDERED RABETAFIKA'S STATEMENT IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE AS TOUGH BUT FAIR. RAJONARIVELO'S SURPRISE INTERVENTION IN THE PLENARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTAINED NOT ONE WORD ABOUT THE ISSUES BUT REPRESENTED AN UNFAIR AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE CRITICISM OF US MOTIVES. MYERSON SAID HE WISHED TO EXPRESS STRONG DISPLEASURE ABOUT THIS MATTER. THE US WOULD HAVE HAD ITS OWN GROUNDS FOR QUESTIONING THE MOTIVES OF SOME IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF REVIEW AND APPRAISAL. WE HAD REFRAINED FROM DOING THIS BECAUSE OF OUR INTEREST IN FOCUSING ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND IN GETTING THE BEST POSSIBLE RESULT. LASTLY,

HE ASKED THAT RABETAFIKA INFORM THE G-77 OF OUR VIEWS.

5. RABETAFIKA SAID HE "FULLY UNDERSTOOD" THE US DELEGATION'S FEELINGS ON THIS MATTER. HE HAD NOT EXPECTED HIS MAN TO GIVE ANY EXPLANATION OF VOTE UNLESS INTERVENTIONS BY THE US OR OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REQUIRED A RESPONSE. RAJAONARIVELO "HAD MADE A MISTAKE". UNDER PRESSURE FROM MEMBERS OF SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS WHO WERE UPSET BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF THE G-77 HAD DECIDED TO STAY WITH THE NEGOTIATED TEXT RATHER THAN CARRYING OUT THE THREAT TO RETURN TO THE EARLIER, MORE EXTREME TEXT ORIGINALLY TABLED BY THE G-77.

6. RABETAFIKA ASKED THAT WE REPORT TO WASHINGTON THAT HIS STATEMENT IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE (REFTEL A, PARA 12) REPRESENTS THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE G-77 AND IS CONTROLLING. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS DELEGATION WISHES TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH US IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. WHILE HE STRONGLY REGRETTED THAT THE US COULD NOT SUPPORT THE FINAL RESOLUTION--AND HE MAINTAINS THAT VIEW--OUR DECISION TO ABSTAIN RATHER THAN VOTE AGAINST WAS VERY HELPFUL IN MAINTAINING THE PROPER ATMOSPHERE AND COUNTERING THE EXTREMISTS IN THE G-77.

7. COMMENT. WHILE IN GENERAL WE ARE NOT IMPRESSED BY THE EXPLANATION THAT "WE REALLY DIDN'T MEAN IT" IN UN DEBATES, WE ARE INCLINED TO CREDIT RABETAFIKA'S STATEMENT. WE HAVE INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE THAT THE PLENARY INTERVENTION TOOK SOME KEY G-77 DELEGATIONS BY SURPRISE. IN ANY CASE, OUR OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN CLEARLY REGISTERED.
MOYNIHAN

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